

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claims 4 and 6 and AMEND claims 1 and 5 in accordance with the following:

Listing of the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A composite material comprising

(A) 100 parts by weight of at least one organically modified layered silicate produced by treating a layered silicate with an organic onium salt, and

(B) 50 to 1000 parts by weight of at least one nonionic surfactant, wherein

the organic onium salt is an organic onium salt selected from the group consisting of hardened tallow diethanolamine, dodecyldiethanolamine, methyl octadecyl dihydroxyethyl ammonium chloride, methyl dodecyl dihydroxypropyl ammonium chloride, polyoxyethylene octadecyl dimethyl ammonium chloride and methyl dipolyoxypropylene octadecyl ammonium chloride, and

the nonionic surfactant is polyoxyethylene alkyl ether represented by the following formula:

$C_nH_{2n+1}-(OCH_2-CH_2)_mOH$ (n=12 to 18, m=2 to 40).

2. (Original) The composite material according to claim 1, wherein the organic onium salt contains at least one polar group.

3. (Original) The composite material according to claim 2, wherein the polar group is a hydroxyl group.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A thermoplastic resin composite material

comprising at least one composite material according to claim 1 and at least one thermoplastic resin; wherein

the thermoplastic resin is an aliphatic polyester.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) A stretched film comprising the thermoplastic resin composite material according to claim 5.

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